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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Agenda item 7

FINANCING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT,
INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Colombia*: draft resolution

Financing science and technology for development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Acknowledging the unique role of the United Nations in science and technology for development,

"Recognizing that there is a need to harmonize the efforts of separate sources of funding science and technology in the light of the changing global socio-economic environment,

"Noting that while funding sources are limited, the need for funds to finance science and technology for development is vast and is increasing,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77.

"Observing that the level of cooperation and collaboration in programmes of endogenous capacity-building still make it necessary to increase financial support through the United Nations system,

"Recalling its resolution 46/165 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries,

"Recalling further, its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it called upon all concerned to implement all commitments, agreements and recommendations reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, especially by ensuring provision of the means of implementation under section IV of Agenda 21, 1/

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject, 2/ which was submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its first session,

"1. Decides to maintain as a priority its efforts to enable developing countries to address their needs for funds and cooperation to enhance the input of science and technology into their development programmes and to build up an endogenous capacity; these efforts should be based on the stated needs and requirements of developing countries;

"2. Also decides to re-examine the role played by the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development in favour of a more suitable and effective contribution for funding science and technology for development;

"3. Decides that a process aimed at establishing an international coordination mechanism for financing scientific and technological activities must be undertaken and that the process should be oriented according to the following guidelines:

"(a) The mechanism will serve as a flexible tool to mobilize resources and facilitate the integrated financing of comprehensive national, regional, interregional and global scientific and technological initiatives aimed at endogenous capacity-building on the basis of priorities determined by the recipients;

"(b) The mechanism will be a body open to the representation of private, public and multilateral institutions, including in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks, national and international foundations and other donors for science and technology for development;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ E/CN.16/1993/10.

"(c) An organizational meeting of experts should be convened by the Secretary-General with the main potential participants to exchange ideas and agree on the structure, modes of functioning and actions necessary to launch the mechanism, in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

"Annex

"ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FINANCING INSTITUTIONS"

"Objective

"1. The objective is to assemble an organized coalition of resources drawn from a variety of domestic, bilateral and multilateral sources to finance science and technology activities in developing countries.

"Programmatic focus

"2. The mechanism should be considered in the context of human resources and endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, which includes activities for building national capacity to choose, acquire, adapt, utilize and develop technologies, including new technologies. The precise areas of concentration should be further considered, taking into account the array of needs of Member States.

"Matters to be decided

"3. The organizational meeting will decide on the following aspects of the mechanism:

"(a) Structure. Arrangements will be made for a definition of status, as needed:

"(i) Participants;

"(ii) An Executive Board, composed of representatives of the participants, to monitor the implementation of the decisions of the participants;

"(iii) Secretariat support services, to be jointly provided by the United Nations unit in charge of science and technology and by the United Nations Development Programme;

"(b) Mode of operation. The mechanism will seek improvements in the coordination and level of grants, co-financing and soft loans. The

mechanism will adopt a programmatic/portfolio approach and encourage national execution, supplemented, where necessary, by external expertise;

"(c) Alternative sources of financing (such as the Global Environment Facility) will be considered;

"(d) Programmatic policy. Thematic and operative criteria will be defined for coordinating the financing of scientific and technological activities."